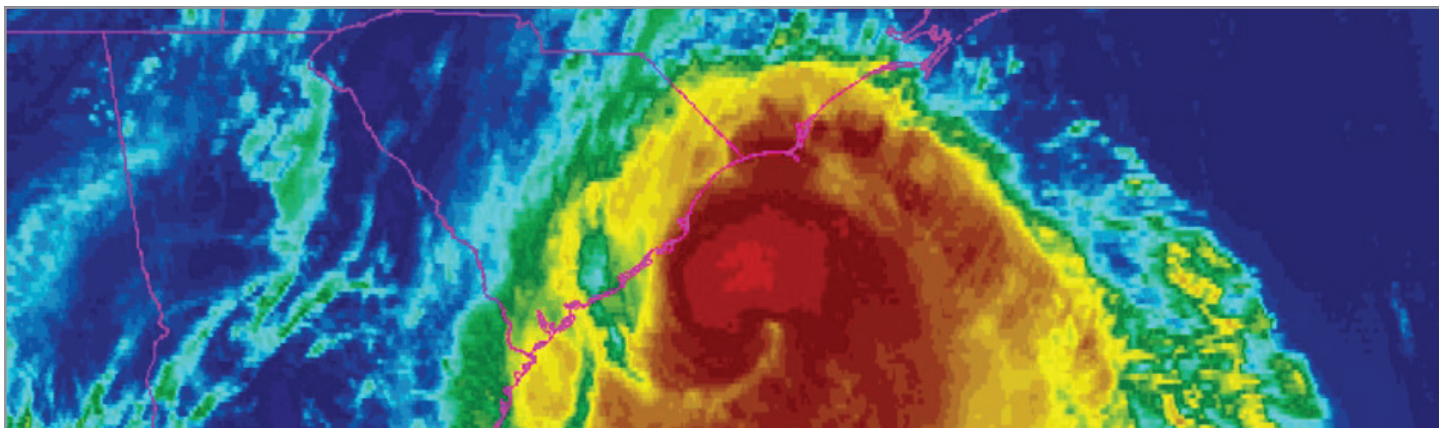


PALMETTO

The Newsletter of the
South Carolina Medical
Reserve Corps

PREPAREDNESS



Hurricane Preparedness: What Will It Take?

By Barb Grube, Lowcountry Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteer Coordinator

As tropical storm Ana began her dance in the Atlantic a few weeks ago, we were rudely reminded that Mother Nature is not as predictable as we'd like her to be! Did she not get the memo that hurricane season begins in June, not May? Though we dodged that bullet, it may have prompted some folks to create or review their personal and family emergency plans. It often takes an event to provide that motivation. Count me as one of those so moved.



Visit the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's website at www.scemd.org for up-to-date hurricane information for your community.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this year we should expect 6 to 11 named storms, 3 to 6 hurricanes with 0 to 2 in the "major" category. Major flooding, tornadoes and rip currents come with them and the high winds can cause major damage hundreds of miles inland. Now is a great time to check your emergency kits, review those evacuation and communication plans and talk with your family, friends and co-workers about the hurricane risks in your area.

I know I'm preaching to the choir, but as a member of that choir, I confess that my emergency kits (home, office and car) and plans need a little beefing up. I also know that preparedness is not limited to a time or season and recent major traffic tie ups in the Charleston area got my preparedness thoughts flowing. This led to the purchase of food, water and Depends (seriously) for my car's emergency kit and steps

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to getting my home and office kits resupplied. I found a new best friend in the Waze app which guided me from North Charleston to Goose Creek in 30 minutes while others were stuck in traffic for hours. I wish the luxury of the “heads up” we get with hurricanes applied to all disasters, but hopefully these near misses have provided the little push some need to get ready for hurricane season or any emergency!

Have you experienced any near misses lately? What will it take for you to get ready? Go to www.ready.gov for more information.

Tropical Cyclone History for Southeast South Carolina and Southeast Georgia

Since official records began in 1851, forty-six tropical cyclones have made landfall in South Carolina and Georgia.

5
Tropical
Depressions

13
Category 1
Hurricanes

4
Category 3
Hurricanes

0 Category 5 Hurricanes

13
Tropical
Storms

8
Category 2
Hurricanes

3
Category 4
Hurricanes

Thirty-eight of these storms made landfall within the NWS Charleston, SC “County Warning Area,” which runs from Charleston County, SC, southward through McIntosh County, GA. This includes twenty-four hurricanes, 10 tropical storms and 4 tropical depressions.

¹ National Weather Service (2015). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Taken from www.weather.gov/chs/TChistory on June 5, 2015.

News from the Lowcountry MRC

By Barb Grube, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Spotlight: Venaye McGlashan, DVM



How long have you been a member of the LMRC?

I have been a member of the MRC since 2011.

What MRC activities have you participated in recently?

I participated in a Medical Triage Exercise at the N. Chas. Emergency Management in 2014, the Earthquake “Drop and Cover” phone exercise, numerous call-down alerts and attended the March LMRC volunteer meeting and update.

Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?

I attended the Beaufort County ESF-17 planning meeting in 2012 and remain on their roster, have done a little volunteer work with AI Segars, DVM for DNR (dolphins), and have developed and carried out a herd health/management plan for the indigenous “marsh ponies” of Horse Island on St. Helena Island, Beaufort County since 2014 to the present. I served as a speaker on “Updating the One Health/One Medicine Concept” at the 2013 University of Georgia Veterinary Alumni Conference. I participate on the American Association of Equine Practitioners committees involving Equine Welfare, Equine Emergency Preparedness and Equine ID. I was also involved (as an Area Emergency Coordinator for USDA) in developing the Georgia Veterinary MRC in 2010 and encouraged the development of a SC Veterinary MRC through the State Veterinarian’s office and the SC Association of Veterinarians.

Why do you participate in the Lowcountry MRC?

I have more than 35 years experience as a veterinarian, more than 20 years involved in Emergency Preparedness/Management. I participated at local, state, national and international levels and was an early speaker and proponent of the One Health/One Medicine concept. Having worked with Veterinary Medicine, agriculture, wildlife and public health, and having a strong concern for environmental health, I hope to recognize and share ways in which the various disciplines overlap and connect and therefore be better prepared to face coming disasters/environmental

health/public health challenges. Knowing that approximately 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic, I recognize an interface with veterinary and public health. I have a strong belief that all things on this earth are connected, and we need to always take those connections into account when planning or responding.

Volunteer Quarterly Meeting Held at St. Francis Hospital

24 LMRC volunteers attended our March quarterly meeting along with guest speakers, Jordan Bradway, DHEC Lowcountry Region Healthcare Preparedness Program Coordinator, and Jason Block, DHEC Lowcountry Region Healthcare Medical Countermeasures Coordinator. Jordan provided an update on the status of the Emergency Medical Containers located throughout our region and the plan to coordinate a maintenance schedule, enlisting volunteers to “adopt a container” located closest to their residence. In addition, 20 volunteers signed up to help with this project. Jason Block provided an overview of the Medical Countermeasures program and gave volunteers a glimpse as to how their help would be vital in the distribution of mass vaccination or mass prophylaxis in the event of a public health emergency. Thanks to everyone for your participation and help.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 27th in Beaufort. Hope you can join us for a situational awareness training. Call Barb at (843) 953-0064 to RSVP.

LMRC Volunteers are Ebola “Victims” in Hospital Exercise

When Trident Medical Center sent a request for volunteers to act as patients during a recent Ebola exercise, LMRC volunteers were ready to help! Lori McFadden, RN, and Barbara Seizer, RN, agreed to participate in the scenario based upon a military member returning from temporary duty in Africa. Here is Barbara’s report:

“My job at the ER was to play the role of a possible victim to help ER staff identify problem areas just as they might in a real disaster, from initial contact with the triage staff through being put into isolation and staff donning/doffing PPE for Ebola. That was interesting.

It took about 15 to 20 minutes just to get into the PPE and PAPR, double gloving, etc. Then the nurse had to come in and try to palpate my pulse, get vital signs, give me a basin for my “pretend” vomit and red bag the basin. The nurse did a very good job of trying to

reassure me when I started asking questions that a real patient might ask: (I have a dog at home, can he carry the disease too? Does the infected vomit/diarrhea go into the regular sewer system when it gets flushed down the toilet? If so, what about public safety? If I was dying and wanted a minister or priest would they let one come in the room?) When it was time for the nurse to leave isolation and doff the PPE, it took another 15 minutes to get out of it, trying to carefully remove contaminated garb.

Very interesting to see how much time it takes just for the PPE when you don’t actually have a seriously ill person waiting for you. They did very well and have my admiration for willing to be on the front line. I would gladly volunteer to do this again.”



Photo by Lori McFadden

Lowcountry MRC Volunteers Participate in Western Shelter Training

On Saturday, April 18th, Lowcountry MRC volunteers Leslie Lisa, Ken Lux, Nancy Paul and Lori Savage joined members SC-1 DMAT and the Lowcountry CERT for a Western Shelter training conducted by the Summerville Fire Department. Attendees unpacked, set up, took down and repacked the shelter.

Participants have a better understanding of the capabilities of this modular sheltering system and how it can be used as a temporary medical facility in times of emergency. Several Western Shelters are located throughout our region for emergency purposes.



News from the Midlands MRC

By Scott Phillips, Volunteer Coordinator

The South Carolina Midlands Region MRC is off and running for 2015 as our volunteers have been active in many exercises, trainings and real-life events through May. Their dedication to the community and willingness to assist with any and all events is attributed to their desire to help their fellow-men, women and children. We cannot do this without them! Thank you!

Recent Activities

The below events show how robust the Midlands Region MRC is in the community and how far reaching the region is, as it has the capability of not only assisting the local community, but at the national level as well.

Blu-Med Tent & Communications

Exercise (2/5-2/6) - on two really cold days in February, a total of nine volunteers participated in the exercise to not only learn how to assemble the Blu-Med tent, but also increase their knowledge of communication resources available in the region.

Blood Pressure Screening (2/6) - one of our Registered Nurse volunteers assisted a local clinic with free blood pressure screenings for their staff. Though it was only one hour, the organizer of the event at the clinic was excited and impressed at the professionalism of the volunteer, which of course, comes as no surprise!

USC POD Presentation (3/5) - with the help of two of our Midlands Region POD Team members, our office presented to medical, nursing and social work students at USC, both in a lecture format and small POD exercise.

RDS Exercise (4/23) - using their help for the first time, six volunteers learned the process involved with receiving and preparing medicines/vaccines for shipment to a POD during an emergency.



Left to right- Mary Lee, Walter "Buddy" Witherspoon, Gary Lennert, William Floyd, Ashley Cox and Joanne Epley. RDS Exercise (4/23)

NDMS Exercise (5/12-13) - organized by the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), 11 volunteers assisted with triaging patients and communicating with statewide partners during movement of those patients to local NDMS hospitals.

POD Demo (5/20) - participating in USC's Staff Training Day, three volunteers assisted with the set-up and discussion of the POD and how the process would work during an emergency.

Disaster Trauma/Mass Fatality Training (6/26) - the Midlands Region MRC Behavioral Health Team was invited to attend a Disaster Trauma/Mass Fatality Training on June 26. This training was conducted in Columbia to enhance the knowledge of the volunteers on how to respond to an incident and assist those affected beyond their physical needs.

2015 XTerra Trail Run Harbison (7/12) - the unit was also asked to assist with the 2015 XTerra Trail Run Harbison. This half marathon is held every year at the Harbison State Forest and the volunteers performed specific duties for the participants during the race, as needed.

Volunteer Spotlight: Craig Scott, RN

How long have you been a member of the MRC?

I have been a member since December 2008.

What MRC activities have you participated in recently?

USC Flu clinics, the DHEC exercise and of course the Healthcare Coalition meetings monthly.

What was your favorite?

USC POD training, though participating in the DHEC drill as a radio operator was also a favorite.

Why do you volunteer for the MRC?

After changing from IT, I went into EMS where I discovered I liked helping people. After getting my RN license I wanted to do more, and volunteering for the MRC was an opportunity to be of service to our community.

Have you ever responded to, or been affected by a man-made or natural disaster?

I rolled my windows up for the hurricane. Really, we've been blessed to have avoided disaster. My only real-world response has been as a net controller for the Columbia National Weather Service, where I also volunteer. I try to train as much as possible so that I can maximize my effort in the event of a real-world disaster.

News from the Pee Dee MRC

By Jenny Latour (Volunteer Coordinator)

Regional Distribution Site (RDS)

On April 23rd, 2015, staff and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers from the Pee Dee joined forces to respond to a simulated attack in the state with *Yersinia pestis*, leading to an outbreak of pneumonic plague (THIS WAS AN EXERCISE.) A shipment of antibiotics from the Strategic National Stockpile was received at the Florence Civic Center (simulated), which is a regional distribution site. DHEC staff and local MRC volunteers worked together to move pallets and boxes around the civic center, to practice the management of pharmaceuticals that will be needed for distribution out to community Points of Dispensing (PODs). The Regional Coordination Center (RCC) in Florence was also operational, giving leadership staff a chance to test communications and coordination processes. The exercise was a great opportunity to test plans and gave staff and volunteers an opportunity to be better prepared for this and other public health emergencies!

Southern Exposure!

Every other year, exercises are conducted in communities near the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant to ensure readiness for response to an incident at the plant. This year, there will be extended play to include a 50 mile ingestion pathway component. One of the primary roles for SC DHEC in this response is the support to the local reception centers, which are expected to receive the evacuees from the surrounding community. The reception centers at Lee Central High School and Chesterfield High School were tested on May 5 and 6, 2015. Staff and MRC volunteers worked together to distribute potassium iodide (KI) and to test redundant communications capabilities.



MRC volunteer George Mudd demonstrates how to use amateur radio equipment during the H.B. Robinson readiness drills.

Ebola Transfer Exercise

On March 20th, 2015, a person who had recently returned from a trip to Africa, walked into a local Hospital emergency room with symptoms of headache, fever, sore throat, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. She was quickly identified as a “person under investigation” (PUI) for ebola. THIS WAS AN EXERCISE, and the “patient” was an MRC volunteer! She experienced the intake process at the first hospital, then was transported by special ambulance to the second hospital for further evaluation and treatment. Special thanks to Dr. Mary Favaro for playing a critical role in this exercise! This exercise helped ensure our readiness in South Carolina to respond to an infectious disease, such as ebola.

Active Shooter Training

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) offered an “active shooter training” class on February 5th, 2015 to show participants how to increase their chances of surviving an active shooter incident. This training in Conway, SC was attended by members of the medical community, including several MRC volunteers.

Have you completed FEMA IS 100.b and IS 700.a? If not, please go to www.training.fema.gov/EMI and take these free online courses.

Once completed, please forward the certificate to me at latourrj@dhec.sc.gov and I will make sure this gets into your training profile!

News from the Western Piedmont (Upstate) MRC

By Joanne Hobbick (Volunteer Coordinator)

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. This summer's focus is promoting safety when working and playing in the sun. At your next get together be the messenger and offer up sun screen. At picnic and BBQ events put a tube on the tables and help young people get into the habit of putting on a layer before their outdoor fun. Be safe, be wise and have a great summer.

Volunteer Spotlight: Allen Barbare



Allen has been a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer since 2008 and actively participates on our Behavioral Health Team. He lives in Greenwood county and is a Human Services instructor at Piedmont Technical School.

Why did you volunteer?

I choose to volunteer because I see the need for mental health services to be available during a disaster. If the skills I have gained through my education, experience and am now teaching, can benefit people in crisis, then I think I should be involved.

What has been your favorite MRC activity?

My favorite activity that I was a part of is the National Defense Medical System. We were part of such a large operation. Even though it was a drill, it really showed how many services would be involved in a response and how they would all work together.

Have you ever responded to, or been affected by a man-made or natural disaster?

A tornado went over our house and uprooted a tree in our front yard. There were neighbors with more damage than us. I saw how this relatively small event affected us and the whole neighborhood. The effects of a large scale incident would be so much greater.



Oconee HOSA POD PROJECT

The WPMRC partners with the Oconee County HOSA team instructed by one of our MRC volunteers Erin Drennon. For the past two years the HOSA group has been studying the components of a Strategic National Stockpile Point of Dispensing; Incident Command, Safety and Security, appropriate site location, through put and flow. This winter the HOSA group led by seniors: Victoria "Tori" Badura and Emily Penn developed their plan for a POD and reversed the process to conduct a food drive on the campus of a local middle school. The students presented their project at the 2015 South Carolina State HOSA Leadership conference and received first place. The students will attend the 2015 National HOSA Leadership conference in California and compete with their MRC partnership project. Wishing good luck to you all.

E-Learning Updates

After new volunteers complete their background checks and have met for orientation an E-learning account is set up for them and they are e-mailed a temporary password. Volunteers are asked to go on-line and activate this account by using the temporary password and then replacing it with a password they choose. The volunteer is also asked to complete the course "DHEC's Role in Emergency Operations." If you have difficulty accessing your account please contact me—Joanne Hobbick—so we can assist in setting up your course. My number is (864) 231-1966.

New Meeting Sites

We have met with the staff of our county libraries and received applications to hold meetings on site. The sites are well lit, have good parking space, staffed, secure and are available during the hours we most often set up meetings.

Thank you for reading
Palmetto Preparedness,
The Newsletter of the South Carolina
Medical Reserve Corps.

